(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Oil Companies have planned to open 291 lead free outlets during the remaining period of 1996-97.

**New Observatory**

2827. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some new observatory is likely to be set up in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, details and feature thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be made operative; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir. The Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, an autonomous institution of Department of Science and Technology, is planning to set up a new observatory in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c). The project consists of setting up of a 2-m class infrared optical telescope at the summit of Dikpa Raja Ree near Hanle Monastery, Changthang Ladakh region. The height of the summit is 15,000 feet. The region has the unique advantage of being among the few high-altitude, cold and dry sites in the world. This is a highly desired environment for astronomy at the infra-red and sub-millimetre wavelenghts. It will ensure high transparency of earth's atmosphere to the light received from celestial sources and will help in probing deeper into the Universe.

The proposed 2-m telescope can be operated remotely using a satellite based computer-to-computer communication link. It is expected to be made fully operational during the Ninth Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Vacant Posts for SCs/STs**

2828. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of various categories reserved for SCs and STs are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry for a considerable time;

(b) if so, the post-wise break-up thereof, till date;

(c) whether the employees of various categories working in departments and undertakings under his Ministry have also been recruited to fresh posts during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise details of the recruitments made on various posts in various categories during the said period, separately;

(e) whether the recruitment of SCs/STs has been made in accordance with the reservation rules; and

(f) the action being taken by the Ministry for filling up the vacant reserved posts in various categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Such data is not maintained in the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) For filling up of the vacant reserved posts in various categories a Special Recruitment Drive 1996 has been launched.

*[English]*

**Grants-in-Aid to Jammu and Kashmir**

2829. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the loans and grants-in-aid provided by the Union Government to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last five years;

(b) the balance loans as on 1 April, 1991;

(c) the loans written off during 1991-96 year-wise;

(d) annual budget for 1996-97; and

(e) annual provision for repayment of loan in 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). A statement showing Loans and Grants-in-aid provided by the Ministry of Finance to Government of Jammu and Kashmir during the last five year is at Statement-I attached. An outstanding balance loan as on 01.04.1991 was of Rs. 2394.22 crores.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2,16.34.431 was written off during 1995-96 in respect of J & K State for Central loans given during 1989-95 as per Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations relating to specific relief for all special category States and States which are characterised by high fiscal stress category warranting special attention for writing off of 5% of repayments due during 1995-2000 with respect to Central loans given during 1989-95.

(d) A statement showing State Budget Estimates for 1996-97 is at Statement-II attached.

(e) During 1996-97, an annual provision for repayment of loans and advances received from Central Government is Rs. 181.43 crores and Rs. 66 crores for internal debt of the State Government.

**STATEMENT-I**

*Statement showing loans and grants-in-aid by the Ministry of Finance to J & K Government during the last five years since 1991-1992, yearwise*

(Rs. in crores)

| | | 1991-92 | | 1992-93 | | 1993-94 | | 1994-95 | | 1995-96 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Loan | Grant | Loan | Grant | Loan | Grant | Loan | Grant | Loan | Grant |
| (i) | Normal Central Assistance | 70.99 | 638.88 | 78.67 | 707.13 | 76.94 | 692.45 | 73.45 | 661.03 | 99.56 | 896.02 |
| (ii) | Additional Central assistance for externally aided projects | 0.71 | 6.41 | 0.72 | 6.44 | 0.79 | 7.08 | 1.11 | 9.99 | 0.65 | 5.86 |
| (iii) | Special Central assistance | - | - | - | - | - | - | 97.30 | 875.70 | 38.35 | 345.15 |
| (iv) | Advance Plan assistance | - | - | - | - | 23.40 | 210.60 | - | - | - | - |
| (v) | Special Plan loan | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 44.00 | - |
| (vi) | Special Central assistance for Border Area Development Programme | - | - | - | - | - | 14.00 | - | 17.50 | - | 20.68 |
| (vii) | Revenue Deficit grants | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (a) Non-Plan | - | 211.47 | - | 221.76 | - | 217.81 | - | 222.89 | - | 545.39* |
| | (b) Plan | - | 2.13 | - | 2.59 | - | 3.06 | - | 3.72 | - | - |
| (viii) | Small Savings Loans | 39.27 | - | 42.49 | - | 59.06 | - | 93.21 | - | 63.34 | - |
| (ix) | Central assistance for Centrally sponsored schemes transferred to the State | - | - | - | - | 0.02 | 0.61 | - | - | - | - |
| (x) | Calamity Relief Fond | - | 9.00 | - | 13.50 | - | 4.50 | - | 9.00 | - | 32.12** |
| | Total | 110.97 | 867.89 | 121.78 | 951.42 | 160.21 | 1150.11 | 265.07 | 1799.83 | 245.90 | 1845.22 |

* Includes Rs. 10.00 crores given to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on behalf of the State Govt. of J & K.

** Includes Rs. 18.17 crores given from National Fund for Calamity Relief.

**STATEMENT-II**

*State Budget Estimates for the year 1996-97*

(Rs. in crores)

| | Receipts | Expenditure | Surplus (+) Deficit (-) |
|---|---|---|---|
| I. Consolidated Fund | | | |
| (i) Revenue Account | 3113.85 | 2706.05 | (+)407.80 |
| (ii) Capital Account | 451.01 | 1004.29 | (-)553.28 |
| Total (Net) I | 3564.86 | 3710.34 | (-) 45.48 |
| II. Contingency Fund | - | - | - |
| III. Public Account (Net) | - | - | (-)206.46 |
| Grand Total (I+II+III) | - | - | (-)351.94 |

*[Translation]*

**Refinery at Gujarat**

2830. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government for the expansion of the I.O.C. Refinery located in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time likely to be taken by the Government for providing clearance to the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c). Govt. has approved the proposal of IOC for